तव कथामृतं तप्तजीवनम्
tava kathāmṛtaṁ tapta-jīvanam

Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

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Srivas Pandit

Śrī Caitanya-caritāmṛta ādi *10.8*

Translation and purport by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

śrīvāsa paṇḍita, āra śrī-rāma paṇḍita
dui bhāi—dui śākhā, jagate vidita

The two brothers Srivas Pandit and Sri Rama Pandit started two branches that are well known in the world.

PURPORT: In the *Gaura-gaṇoddeśa-dīpikā* (90), Srivas Pandit (Srivas Thakur) is described as an incarnation of Narada Muni, and Sri Rama Pandit, his younger brother, is said to be an incarnation of Parvata Muni, a great friend of Narada's. Srivas Pandit's wife, Malini, is celebrated as an incarnation of the nurse Ambika, who fed Krishna with her breast milk. And, as already noted, Srivas Pandit's niece Narayani, who was the mother of Thakur Vrindavan Das, the author of *Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata*, was the sister of Ambika in *kṛṣṇa-līlā*. We also understand from the description of *Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata* that after Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's acceptance of the *sannyāsa* order, Srivas Pandit left Nabadwip, possibly because of feelings of separation, and domiciled at Kumarahatta. ❀

next column ☞

Becoming Free from Anarthas

Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur Prabhupada

śrī śrī kṛṣna caitanya-candro vijayatetamām
All glories to the moon-like
Sri Krishna Chaitanya

śrī māyāpur vrajapattana
24 bhādra 1322 [18 Sept 1915]

Sneha-vigraheṣu _____ [Dear _____],

I have received your affectionate letter dated 15 *Śrīdhara*. Due to being engaged in many activities I have not been able to give timely replies to anyone.

By not doing *hari-bhajana*, people are becoming *jñānīs* and *karmīs* — persons with desires other than for service to the Lord. Therefore, always chanting the *mahā-mantra*, cry out to the Lord. By loudly chanting a fixed number of Krishna's names, *anarthas*, unwanted things, and material

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inclinations will go away. Even the materialists, who have turned their faces from Lord Hari, will not be able to criticize. *śāstrīya sādhu-saṅga-i bhāla* — According to *śāstra*, *sādhu-saṅga* is good. Through that association one can learn how to do *bhajana*. By chanting the holy name without offenses, all perfections will be in one's hand. Then the materialists can not do anything against us.

As soon as the third issue of *Śrī Sajjana Toṣaṇī* is published I will send a copy to you. Read that magazine carefully. And from time to time you may discuss *Jaiva Dharma*.

Common people will always speak about mundane things. You should keep your distance and be indifferent to it. If you sincerely desire to progress in the path of devotional service then obstacles cannot affect you. If you have time you may discuss *Kalyāṇa-kalpataru, Prārthanā, Prema-bhakti-candrikā* and other literature.

Offer respect to worldly-minded people, but don't follow their behavior. Give it up in your mind.

We are all well. *Āpnāra bhajana-kuśala jānāibena* — let us know if all is well for your *bhajana*.

nitya-aśīrvādak — your ever wellwisher,
Sri Siddhanta Saraswati ❀

— Translated by Sri Madhavendu Das and Sri Bhakta Pradosh, from *Prabhupādera Patrāvali, prathama-khanda*. Sri Chaitanya Math. Mayapur. 1991. Bengali. Pages 1-2.

Reflecting the Sun

Sri Srimad Gour Govinda Swami Maharaja

If you are a true disciple then the guru will reflect through you. Guru is the carrier of Krishna, the chief sun. If you are a true disciple, then that will reflect in you and then you can distribute what guru has come to give. Otherwise how can you distribute? If you have not gotten, if you have not relished, and you go to tell others, why will people believe it? "Have you gotten? Have you relished?" "No." "Then why are you giving me? You have not done so. You may be cheating me. You have not gotten it, you have not relished, yet you are saying, 'Yes, yes! You take! Relish, relish!' If you have not tasted it, then how can I?" Then your preaching is not effective. It is all blank fire.

Devotee 1: It is not only blank fire, it's troublesome.

Devotee 2: People first want to see if you are happy.

Gour Govinda Swami: Yes. They want to know if you are happy, if you are relishing. "Oh, yes! He's relishing, so he's giving me." Then they will put faith in your words. Otherwise, how can they put faith in what you are saying? ❀

— Darshan after class. Bhubaneswar. 7 November 1993.

Srivas Thakur and Nimai Pandit's Madness

***Adapted from Srila Vrindavan Das Thakur's Śrī Caitanya-bhāgavata,* madhya 2.85-123**

The following story describes the behavior of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu after he had returned from Gaya.

When Nimai heard that the devotees were feeling distress because of being criticized by the non-beleivers, the Lord's anger towards the atheists increased greatly. He roared loudly, "I will kill them all." He repeatedly exclaimed, "I am he, I am he." Sometimes he laughed, sometimes he cried, sometimes he fell unconscious to the ground, and sometimes when he saw his wife Vishnupriya he rushed forward to beat her.

Mother Sachi could not understand, and thought that perhaps he had some disease. Sachi did not know anything other than affection for her son. She told everyone about His behavior. "Providence has taken away my husband and sons; only this one remains. And I cannot understand the state of his mind. Sometimes he laughs, sometimes he cries, and sometimes he falls unconscious. He often talks to himself, and sometimes he says, 'I will tear off the heads of the atheists.' Sometimes he climbs a tree and sits on a branch. Closing his eyes, he then sometimes falls to the ground. He gnashes his teeth, tucks up his cloth like a wrestler, and falls to the ground, unable to utter a word."

The people in Nabadwip had never seen or heard of such transformations of ecstatic love for Krishna. Thinking that it was madness, they said he should be bound up.

Those who came to see the Lord after hearing from Mother Sachi simply laughed and rushed away, thinking that he was suffering from insanity. They quickly took mother Sachi to the side and tried to pacify her, saying, "It is some previous derangement that has reappeared."

Someone said, "O Thakurani, you are so ignorant. Why do you want to ask further about his condition? Some previous madness has appeared in his body. Tie his legs together and keep him inside the house. Give him green coconut water to drink until his madness is cured."

Someone else said, "What can a little medicine do? His disease will be cured only if you smear some medicated ghee on him. Apply medicated oil on his head and then bathe him. Continue in this way until the disease subsides."

The most magnanimous Sachi is the mother of the universe. She would carefully follow everyone's advice. Overwhelmed with anxiety and not knowing what to do, she took shelter of Govinda with her body, speech, and mind. She then sent a messenger to the houses of all the *vaiṣṇavas* headed by Srivas to inform them of the situation.

Srivas Pandit came there, and the Lord immediately got up and offered him obeisances. Seeing a devotee, the Lord's devotional sentiments increased. His hairs stood on end, he shed tears, he shivered, and his attachment for the Lord was enhanced. When Srivas arrived, the Lord was circumambulating *tulasī*, but on seeing the devotee, he immediately fell unconscious. Regained external consciousness after some time, the Lord began to cry. He shivered so intensely that he was unable to remain still.

When Srivas Pandit saw this wonderful sight, he contemplated, "Who calls this madness? This is the highest state of devotion."

On regaining his external consciousness, the Lord asked Srivas Pandit, "What do you think of my behavior? Someone suggested that I should be bound up because of my insanity. O Pandit, what do you think?

Srivas smiled and said, "Your madness is good. I also want the same kind of madness that you have. In your body, I find the highest symptoms of devotion. Krishna has bestowed his mercy on you."

When the Lord heard this from Srivas, he embraced him in great happiness. Everyone concluded that I was afflicted with madness, you alone have concluded otherwise. Therefore I am greatly obliged to you. If you had also concluded that I was insane, then I would have drowned myself in the Ganges today."

Srivas Pandit said, "The symptoms of devotional service that you display are desired by personalities such as Brahma, Shiva, and Sanak."

Srivas continued:

sabe mili' eka-ṭhāi kariba kīrtana
ye-te kene nā bale pāṣaṇḍī pāpī-gaṇa

We will gather together and chant the names of Krishna. Let the sinful atheists say whatever they want.

Purport by Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Thakur

The explanation of the second line of this verse is found in the following *śloka* [From Srila Rupa Goswami's *Padyāvalī* 73]:

parivadatu jano yathā tathāyaṁ
nanu mukharo na vayaṁ vicārayāmaḥ
hari-rasa-madirā-madāti-mattā
bhuvi viluṭhāma naṭāma nirviśāma

Let the garrulous populace say whatever they like; we shall pay them no regard. Thoroughly maddened by the ecstasy of the intoxicating beverage of love for Krishna, we shall enjoy life running about, rolling on the ground, and dancing in ecstasy.

Srivas then said to Sachi, "Give up all your anxieties. This is not insanity. It is devotion to Krishna. No one else can understand this fact. If you wish to see many more of Krishna's mysteries, then do not tell ordinary people about this." After speaking in this way, Srivas Pandit returned home and Sachi was relieved of thoughts that her son was affected by madness.

— Adapted from the translation by Bhumipati Das. Edited and published by Pundarik Vidyanidhi Das. Vrajaraj Press. Vrindavan. 2001.

— Rupa Goswami. *Śrī Padyāvalī*. Sanskrit text. Critically edited by Sushil Kumar De. Navrang Publishers. New Delhi. 1990.

Prayer to Srivas Thakur

The poet Prema Das

For more about Prema Das, see Bindu 122.

saptadvīpa dīpta kari śobhe navadvīpa-purī
yāhe viśvambara devarāja
tāhe tāṅra bhakta yata tāhāte śrīvāsa khyāta
śrī kṛṣṇa-kīrtana yāṅra kāja

The beauty of Nabadwip far outshines the seven islands (continents on this planet). There, Visvambhar, the king of gods, resides. Among all of his devotees, the most famous is Srivas, whose occupation is *śrī kṛṣṇa-kīrtana*.

Refrain:

jaya jaya ṭhākura paṇḍita
yāṅra kṛpāleśa mātra haya gaura prema-pātra
anupāma sakala carita

All glories to Srivas Pandit, by even a tinge of whose mercy one can attain Gaura's incomparable pot of love.

gaurāṅgera sevā vine deva devī nāhi jāne
cāri bhāi dāsa-dāsī laye
satata kīrtana-raṅge gaura-gaura-bhakta-saṅge
ahar-niśi preme matta haye

Service to Gauranga is everything to him. He has no interest in the demigods. Engaging his four brothers, his servants, and his maidservants, he is always relishing *kīrtana* in the association of Mahaprabhu and his devotees. Day and night he is mad in ecstatic love of God.

yāṅra bhāryā śrī mālinī pativratā śiromaṇi
yāṅre prabhu kahaye jananī
nityānanda rahe ghare putra-sama sneha kare
stana jhare netre bahe pānī

His wife is Sri Malini, a crest jewel of chastity whom Mahaprabhu called mother. Lord Nityananda lives in her house and Malini loves him like a son — with milk flowing from her breasts and tears from her eyes.

kabhu vā īśvara-jñāne nati kare śrī caraṇe
kabhu kole karaye lālana
prabhura nṛtya-bhaṅga lāgi mṛta-putra-śoka-tyāgī
śuni prabhu karaye rodana

Sometimes, knowing Mahaprabhu to be the Supreme Lord, he bows his head at his lotus feet. Sometimes, he takes the Lord on his lap and fondles him with affection. Not wanting to disturb Mahaprabhu's dancing, Srivas gave up lamenting for his dead son. When Mahaprabhu heard of this, he cried.

bhrātṛ-sutā nārāyaṇī vaiṣṇava-maṇḍale dvani
yāṅra putra vṛndāvana dāsa
varṇiyā caitanya-līlā tribhuvana uddhārilā
prema dāsa kare yāra āśa

His brother's daughter Narayani is famous amongst all the *vaiṣṇavas* society. Her son is Vrindavan Das who narrated Mahaprabhu's pastimes and thus delivered the three worlds. Premadasa aspires for the lotus feet of Srivas Thakur. ❀

— Translated by Bhakta Pradosh. From *Śrī Manohara Bhajana Dīpikā*. Edited by Dina Narottam Das (Chota). Published by Sri Sudhasindhu Das. Govardhan. Gaurabdha 519. Bengali.

For the interest of our readers, we reproduce here the maṅgalācaraṇ *verse for Srivas Thakur given in this Bengali songbook.*

vandiba śrī śrīnivāsa thākura paṇḍita
nārada kheyāti yāṅra bhuvana pūjita

I offer my respects to Sri Srinivas Thakur Pandit. He is worshiped in all of the universes as the famous Narada Muni.

Sri Krishna Kathamrita Bindu

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